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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In the Application of:

John E. Sims and Dirk E. Smith

Docket No.: 0317-US

Serial No.: --to be assigned--

Art Unit: unknown

Filed: February 21, 2001

Examiner: unknown

For: HUMAN IL-1 EPSILON DNA AND POLYPEPTIDES

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

BOX PATENT APPLICATION  
Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examining and prior to calculating the claim fee due for the above identified patent application, please enter the following amendment:

In the Specification:

On page 1 after the title, please add:

This application is a National Stage application filed pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 371 from PCT PCT/US99/18771. Applicant claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of United States provisional applications S.N. 60/097,413, S.N. 60/098,595, and S.N. 60/099,974, filed August 21, 1998, August 31, 1998, and September 11, 1998, respectively. The entire disclosures of these applications are relied upon and incorporated by reference herein.

**In the Claims:**

Please delete all claims.

Please add the following new claims:

21. An isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:

A2  
Cn't  
B1